

Message Text

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UNCLAS MARSEILLE 0120

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SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS - SECOND ROUND RESULTS

REF: MARSEILLE 0100

1. SUMMARY

RESULTS OF THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE THIRTY THREE CITIES COVERED BY OUR ELECTION SURVEY PLACE FULLY TWENTY FOUR OF THEM (73 PERCENT) ON THE LEFT COMPARED WITH 45 PERCENT) GOING INTO THE ELECTIONS. THIS WAS A GREATER SHIFT THAN WE HAD EXPECTED. THE MAJORITE AND APOLITICAL/LOCAL ACTION GROUPS BORE THE BRUNT OF THE CHANGES ABOUT EQUALLY. THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG AND WITHIN MAJORITE, RIGHT, AND CENTER GROUPS WHICH BENEFITTED THE MORE TIGHTLY KNIT PARTIES OF THE LEFT. SEVERAL ECOLOGY GROUPS APPEARED WHICH FURTHER ERODED THE MAJORITE. MOST OF THE MOVEMENT TO THE LEFT OCCURED IN CITIES OVER 30,000 AND REFLECTED LOCAL ISSUES, PERSONALITIES,
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AND BLOC VOTING BY LEFT ADHERENTS. ALSO, IN MANY CASES VOTER TURNOUT ON THE SECOND TOUR FELL BELOW EARLIER LEVELS WHICH USUALLY AIDED THE LEFT.

2. THE LARGER CITIES

DEFERRE MAINTAINED HIS POSITION IN MARSEILLE WITH A LARGER

PROPORTION OF THE VOTE THAN IN 1971 ALTHOUGH VOTER PARTICIPATION WAS LESS THAN BEFORE. AT AIX-EN-PROVENCE THE PS AND MAYOR CICCOLINI NARROWLY WON OVER THE MAJORITE. IN BOTH CITIES, IF THE RESPECTIVE MAYORS HAD ADDED THE PC TO THEIR OWN PS STRENGTH TO FORM UNION DE LA GAUCHE TICKETS, THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BEATEN THE MAJORITE BY WIDE MARGINS. RI MAYOR ARRECKS RETAINED TOULON BY A CONSIDERABLE PLURALITY. IN MONTPELLIER THE FAILURE OF WELL-LIKED ALOITICAL MAYOR DELMAS CAME AS A SURPRISE. HE LOST WITH 48 PERCENT OF THE VOTE AGAINST A WELL-ORGANIZED LEFT COALITION. LOCAL APATHY HURT HIM: SOME 23 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS STAYED AWAY FROM THE SECOND TOUR POLLS, MANY BELIEVING DELMAS WOULD WIN ANYWAY. ALSO GOING TO THE LEFT ON THE SECOND TOUR WERE BEZIERS (UG GETTING 56 PERCENT), ORANGE (UG GETTING 48 PERCENT) (THREE LISTS), AND ALBI. THE LEFT TOOK BEZIERS AND ORANGE LARGELY DUE TO LOCAL DISSATISFACTION WITH MAJORITE AGRICULTURAL POLICIES BY THE RECESSION HIT LOCAL WINE AND FRUIT INDUSTRIES AND THEIR WORKERS. AT ALBI THE IMPORTANT APOLITICAL GROUP OF VOTERS (2807 IN THE FIRST TOUR) DID NOT SUPPORT THE BELEAGUERED MAJORITE ON THE SECOND ROUND WHICH LOST TO THE US BY A SCANT 1175 VOTES. THE OTHER LARGER TOWNS WERE RETAINED BY THEIR PREVIOUS LEADERS, NAMELY CARCASSONNE (UG), NIMES (PC), AVIGNON (UG), PERPIGNAN (APOLITICAL), AND RODEZ (MAJORITE).

3. RESULTS ELSEWHERE

AS REPORTED REFTEL, GOING TO THE LEFT ON THE FIRST TOUR WERE LA CIOTAT, CASTRES, AND DECAZEVILLE. ON THE SECOND UNCLASSIFIED

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TOUR THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY HYERES (53 PERCENT UG), LANGOGNE (35 PERCENT UG, THREE LISTS), AND ST. CHELY D APCHER (57 PERCENT UG). FREJUS WAS A RARE SUCCESS FOR THE MAJORITE WHERE AN RI LIST WON OVER THE ENCUMBENT CENTRISTS WITH 57 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. MENDE ALSO WENT TO THE MAJORITE WHEN THE RI LIST HEADED BY PIERRE COUDERC WON OVER THE ENCUMBENT CNI GROUP ON 36 PERCENT OF THE VOTE (3 LISTS). CARPENTRAS REMAINED IN THE MAJORITE FOLD WITH RI MAYOR SORTANT CHARRETIER AND HIS LIST BEING CHOSEN BY 48 PERCENT OF THE VOTERS COMPARED WITH THE UG S 46 PERCENT. THE MAJORUTE LOST MILLAU TO A CENTRIST RADICAL DE GAUCHE LIST HEADED BY MANUEL DIAZ (59 PERCENT OF VOTE).

4. POSSIBLE ELECTION SIDE-EFFECTS FOR THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT.

THE ELECTION DEFEATS SUSTAINED BY SEVERAL MAJORITE MAYORS IN THIS DISTRICT INVOLVE IMORTANT SUPPORTERS OF THE GISCARD GOVERNMENT. WILL THEIR DEFEAT BE TRANSLATED INTO FUTURE LOSSES OF STRENGTH FOR THE MAJORITE IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS ?

SPECIFICALLY THE QUESTIONS INVOLVES PIERRE BROUSSE, MINISTER
OF COMMERCE AND CRAFTS WHO LOST AT BEZIERS, AND LOSSES BY
RPR DEPUTIES LIMOUZY (LOSR CASTRES), BERARD (LOST ORANGE),
AND BENARD (LOST HYERES). MEIMA

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